



# *Iowa Bird Life*

Published By The  
*Iowa Ornithologists' Union*

VOL. XXXV—No. 2

*June 1965*

43rd ANNUAL IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS'  
UNION CONVENTION  
MAY 14, 15, 16, 1965

DR. MYRLE BURK

R.R. 2

WATERLOO, IOWA

During the evening of May 14, bird watchers from various points of Iowa and Illinois gathered in the lobby of the Davenport Public Museum. This informal meeting was the opening of the joint meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the Illinois Audubon Society. It provided an opportunity to view an exhibit of "Regional Birds in Art" which included paintings by Dr. Walter Ereckenridge and Maynard Reece which were loaned by the artists. Greeting old friends, registration and planning the Saturday morning field trips were also in order. The Museum Ladies Guild served refreshments and the museum exhibits were open for viewing.

At 10:30 Saturday morning, following field trips into Illinois, the fine programs planned for the two societies began. Donald Herold, Director of the Davenport Public Museum, welcomed the visitors to which Dr. Robert Vane, President of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and Raymond Mostek, President of the Illinois Audubon Society responded.

Following are abstracts of the papers presented at the Saturday meeting:

1. **Winter Movements of Buteos:** TERRENCE N. INGRAM, Apple River, Illinois

The area of Southwestern Wisconsin, Northwestern Illinois, and Eastern Iowa has three Buteos commonly found in it during the winter. They are the Red-tailed Hawk, the Red-shouldered Hawk, the Rough-legged Hawk. Generally speaking, each of these hawks is found in a different habitat. The Red-tail is the most diversified and is found in every habitat. However, the most frequented habitat for Red-tails is open woodlands, adjacent to fields located on slopes or in hilly terrain. Roughlegs are found, almost exclusively, on level open farm land with very little woods or trees in the vicinity. In contrast, Red-shouldered Hawks are found only along the Mississippi River near open water near or even among Bald Eagles.

The author has studied the Buteos on this study area for four winters to determine their movements, population, food habits and behavior. He has banded many of the wintering birds and has taken census counts during the winter to determine the population on certain parts of the study area. He has observed Southern migrations in December and Northern migrations in February. He has observed roosts of both Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks. He has banded western birds of both species.

From his observations he has determined: that each Buteo has a winter territory of about 1 square mile; that many of the birds are constantly moving from one area to another all winter; that the main food item is mice or other small mammals; that the weather is one of the major factors regulating the daily and monthly movements of the birds; that the birds will tolerate each other at roosts during severe weather during early winter but not at all as the nesting season approaches.

2. **Hole Nesting Birds and How to Attract Them:** T. E. MUSSELMAN, Quincy, Illinois

During the many years that he has maintained nesting boxes for birds the author has attracted the following species: Wood Duck, Sparrow Hawk, Screech Owl, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Crested Fly-

catcher, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Prothonotary Warbler, House Sparrow and European Tree Sparrow. Primary emphasis will be given to two species on which study groups are being run, Eastern Bluebird and Prothonotary Warbler.

The various home nesting species will be discussed in a general manner. Specific details on habits will deal only with bluebirds and Prothonotary Warblers. A Purple Martin house and probably several smaller houses will be on display.

**3. African Birds: TURNER NEARING, Decatur, Illinois**

The author and his wife arrived in Johannesburg on July 25, 1963. They visited Kruger Park, the Sabie River area, Capetown and vicinity, Southern Rhodesia, Nairobi, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tsavo National Park, Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater National Park and Serengeti National Park. They left Africa on August 21.

All photography was done from a Land Rover, which created quite a handicap. Nearly two hundred fifty species of birds were identified on the trip. The slides include some views of natives and their surroundings, animals and for the most part birds. A telephoto lens was used for many of the shots.

**4. Migrant Birds in the Davenport Area: URBAN STRATMAN, Davenport, Iowa**

This 8mm motion picture shows some of the birds which can be found in the Davenport area in migration. Three or four species are included which are not true migrants but do seem to show movements following a predictable pattern within a limited local area. All birds shown were captured for banding purposes by Peter Petersen, Jr., Davenport. Spring migration banding is done at Oakdale Cemetery and fall migration banding at Pine Hill Cemetery. Camera was hand held.

The following species are shown: Double-crested Cormorant, Wood Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bobwhite, White-rumped Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Screech Owl, Long-eared Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe (and young), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Creeper, House Wren (eggs only), Catbird, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird (young only), Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

**5. Factors Affecting Marsh Bird Populations in Iowa: GERALD KAUFMANN, Dubuque, Iowa**

Two major factors which regulate the populations of marsh birds are muskrats and rainfall. Both function to produce a cycle of bird populations about every 7 to 15 years.

Muskrats will clear a dense marsh of its vegetation, and change it into an open water lake. The muskrats then suffer severe starvation and die. The vegetation will not grow back until the bottom of the marsh is exposed by drought. Such exposure will permit the germination of marsh vegetation. Once sufficient rainfall fills the marsh, the cycle begins again.

The effect of the clearing by the muskrats depends upon the requirements of the marsh birds. Certain marsh birds require large, solid stands of vegetation, others require good stands of vegetation interspersed with open water, and others require much open water. Each group of birds will reach its peak population at the stage of marsh vegetation which it requires.

Birds which like solid stands of marsh vegetation, e.g., marsh wrens, blackbirds, rails and bitterns, will be most numerous before the muskrats begin clearing. As the muskrats make many small openings, dabbling ducks predominate. They nest near these isolated openings, and use the muskrat lodges for loafing spots and sometimes even for nesting. As the cutting continues, diving ducks, coot, and grebes are able to land on the water, and utilize the open water for their feeding. Once only thin, scattered stands of vegetation are left, most nesting declines. The remaining birds suffer high nest losses and desert readily. The open water and mud flats are then used only as feeding areas until a drought begins germination of marsh vegetation again. The slides consist of examples of the marsh in these stages of the vegetation cycle and of the more important birds associated with each stage.

#### PESTICIDES

VERNON HAGELIN, Moline, Illinois — Moderator  
ELTON FAWKS, Moline, Illinois

Five years ago the Illinois Audubon Society, the Illinois Division of the Izaak Walton League, and Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, concerned about the misuse and overuse of chemical pesticides organized the Illinois Pesticide Control Committee. We were concerned with corrective laws, but after many meetings it was decided that we did not know enough about the subject to write the needed legislation. Therefore it seemed that a governmental commission should study the program and come up with proper legislation when the Illinois General Assembly met again in 1963. However on June 30, 1961, our bill lost on the last day due to some very petty jealousies among some of our senators. We felt that we could not lose two more years so we wrote several bills dealing with the problem. How correct we were will soon be apparent. We lost out on one bill in committee and the Governor vetoed two with the statement that we were too premature.

We were fought by the Illinois Agriculture Department at every step. Late in December, 1964, we were contacted by the Department and asked to help them write the proper laws. Their representatives came to Moline and talked to us. One of the major bills we had asked for was an Inter-Agency Committee consisting of the Code Department heads, to approve all control programs done on state property or by state agencies. Although this was vetoed, the Governor appointed a committee that did what we asked, which has worked well. On April 8, Vernon Hagelin and I met with this committee at the invitation of the Agriculture Department. The same Custom Applicators License Bill that we had introduced two years previous was approved. Also an Inter-Agency Commission Bill with the I.P.C.C. as a voting member was approved, as well as a commission to study and report back in 1967 on additional laws needed. Everything that we asked for was included in these measures. Our advice was asked for and used. At this writing the future of these bills is unknown. They will be Administration Bills introduced by the Governor. At the present time there are some very encouraging signs pointing to a public awareness of the complete pesticide problem and signs that even the chemical companies are engaged in costly research dealing with controls other than chemical.

However, with favorable reports coming in we still cannot relax and consider the job finished. When we read in print that not a documented case of human death due to the normal use of pesticides has been reported we

must be on the alert for this kind of false statement. See AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL MAGAZINE 19 (7) 28-29 and 88-89 **Report of Pesticide Injuries Continue to Decline in California** "70 children and 19 adults dies in California from cases attributed to agricultural chemicals, making a total of 115 deaths since 1951".

Some of us also have felt some elation at the smaller dosages being used and the safeguards taken. At least I was until I visited the Doctors Graber at the Illinois Natural History Survey. Dr. Richard Graber told me of their research on a hay field adjacent to wheat fields that were sprayed by air with  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound of dieldrin per acre. Only the drift from the spray and birds feeding in the treated area accounted for some alarming losses in Red-wings and unhatchable eggs. I will report on this at some length. Look for Dr. Richard Grabers story in the **Wilson Bulletin** for June, 1965.

J. ANTHONY KIETH, Madison, Wisconsin

The hypothesis that the biological concentration of chlorinated hydrocarbons in the ecosystems of small lakes also occurs in the Green Bay area of Lake Michigan has been confirmed.

DDT, DDE, and TDE in bottom muds secured in a crude fashion at depths of 33-96 ft on both sides of Door Co., Wisconsin, averaged 0.014 plus 0.005 ppm wet weight. *Pontoporeia affinis* averaged 0.41 at a depth 90-100 ft in Ellison Bay, 0.44 in old-squaw and 0.54 in white fish taken off Baileys Harbor. Wet-weight levels of these three chemicals averaged 3.3-3.4 in alewives taken by gulls; 4.52 in 10 chubs analyzed as whole fish; and 5.60 in the muscle tissue of 5 whitefish, the latter two species being taken at a depth of 126-180 ft. 5 miles out in the lake.

Somewhat similar levels were found in 5 Old-squaw ducks, being highest in adult birds and in body fat. Ring-billed Gulls, which fed principally on insects in the nesting season, had still higher levels which reached 28.0 plus 4.8 in breast muscle and 9.76 plus 1.79 in body fat. Among 12 nesting adult Herring Gulls, these three chemicals averaged 20.8 plus 2.1 in brain tissue, 98.8 plus 9.2 in breast muscle, and 2441 plus 334 in body fat. For DDT alone, these values were 3.9 plus 0.4, 14.1 plus 0.4, and 390 plus 46 respectively. Subadult birds had levels of the same magnitude.

The DDT-complex ran as high as 37.4 ppm in the brains of nesting Herring Gulls and as high as 4720 in their body fat. Occasional deaths due to insecticide poisoning should be expected among such animals during periods of semi-starvation, and reproductive failures should be watched for.

The high DDT residue levels and low hatching rate reported here suggest that the reduced productivity of this Wisconsin Herring Gull population in 1964 was the result of insecticide consumption.

At Herring Gull colonies in the Green Bay area, nine apparently live eggs averaged 19 plus 3 wet-weight ppm DDT, 202 plus 34 DDE, and 6.0 plus 0.9 TDE; ten dead eggs tended to have slightly higher amounts. In 115 nests, 35 per cent of the eggs died, mortality occurring rather evenly throughout embryonic life. Whole carcasses of three chicks that died at 1 week ran as high as 48 wet-weight ppm DDT, and 380 of DDE plus TDE. In five healthy chicks 35-42 days old, the three compounds summed averaged 7.0 plus 2.1 in breast muscle and 180 plus 22 in body fat. Overall reproductive success of 115 nests was 0.3 minus 0.4 fledged young per pair and was similar on nearby colonies.

LESTER STONE, Hampton, Illinois

I am a farmer, and a conservationist who has been a long time member of the Izaak Walton League. I once planned to be a farm advisor, but now I sell spray equipment. I sell \$75,000 to \$100,000 worth of chemicals each year. I am not going to talk against the use of chemicals and sprays. I

## VIEWS AT THE DAVENPORT CONVENTION



PESTICIDE PANEL—Left to right: Hagelin, Fawks, Kieth, and Stone.



Left to right—Ayres, Mrs. Kent, Mrs. Vane, Dr. Vane, Miss Briggs, Petersen, Nearing, and Ward.

Photos by F. W. Kent

have 750 acres of land. I do not have a single eroding ditch. We are raising horses, registered Holstein cattle, colonies of bees, Christmas trees and dwarf apple trees. We have extensive plantings of clover.

Our research has only scratched the surface of the problems of chemicals and their use and abuse. There are many kinds of insects, and each has its own kind of work to do. As an orchardist, I find I have to use a new kind of insecticide with a new kind of equipment to kill parasitical insects which have just come on the scene. Insect damage costs as much in dollar loss each day as the dropping of several Hydrogen bombs.

Forestry men suggest sodium arsenite for killing certain pests on trees. About 35 deer come into my orchard regularly. If I used sodium arsenite on my orchard trees, those deer would die. Enderin has been mis-used over and over again. If properly used, it is safe to use, but we must be careful in applying it and using it. We must learn to read the labels on chemical

containers and use directions more carefully. You can buy chemicals anywhere and we often ignore instructions on the label. We even "up the amounts" which are called for in order "to be sure".

People in the orchard and fruit business, despite many years of experience, are now confused and disturbed over chemicals. They have gotten to asking each other, "What shall we use for a spray this year?" They depend in great measure on the sales personnel to give them assistance. We used three less applications of sprays several years ago than any other orchardist in the state. We had an excellent crop of apples, because I paid close attention to this particular problem. We live in a chemical age. Our main problem is how to control these chemicals and not to eliminate them. CHARLES AYRES, Ottumwa, Iowa — No abstract submitted. (Unable to arrive in time for panel due to conflict with job.)

The annual banquet was served Saturday evening by the Northern Lights Class of St. John's Methodist Church. After the repast, Dr. Alfred Bailey entertained us with a fascinating lecture and film, "Ecuador's Enchanted Isles," the Galapagos, islands described by Darwin in *The Voyage of the Beagle*. Pictured were the great tortoise, the varying lizards, the birds and the topography. Here also hardy people of Norway had migrated to establish homes and raise families on some of these isolated scraps of land in the Pacific.

#### BUSINESS MEETINGS

At 3:30 p.m., May 15, 1965, Dr. Robert Vane, President, called the meeting to order. The report of the Secretary-treasurer was requested.

Following is the financial and the membership report:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Assets, 1964-65 .....                  | \$2436.09 |
| Expenses .....                         | 1449.51   |
| Balance .....                          | \$ 986.58 |
| Balance in National Bank of Waterloo   |           |
| May 4, 1965 .....                      | \$ 821.48 |
| Deposits after May 4, 1965 .....       | 36.00     |
| Deposits after May 4, 1965 .....       | 182.80    |
| Cash on hand .....                     | 3.54      |
| Total .....                            | \$1043.82 |
| Checks written since May 4, 1965 ..... | 57.24     |
| Balance .....                          | \$ 986.58 |
| Sources of income                      |           |
| Membership .....                       | \$1258.00 |
| Field Check Lists .....                | 32.60     |
| Brassards .....                        | 13.00     |
| Decals .....                           | 10.05     |
| Unlisted Decals, F.C.L., etc. ....     | 16.70     |
| Grant's Bird List .....                | 3.85      |
| Iowa Bird Life, single copies .....    | 4.55      |
| Postage .....                          | .85       |
| Convention, 1964 .....                 | 120.50    |
| Convention, 1965 .....                 | 173.40    |
|  | \$1633.50 |
| Carried over from 1963-64 .....        | 802.59    |
| Total .....                            | \$2436.09 |

## Expenses

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Printing Iowa Bird Life .....       | \$ 771.20 |
| Engraving .....                     | 191.28    |
| Editor, Peter C. Petersen, Jr. .... | 100.00    |
| Stamps and Postal Service .....     | 23.50     |
| Mailing labels .....                | 11.01     |
| Stationery .....                    | 25.30     |
| 5000 Field Check Lists .....        | 55.10     |
| Badges .....                        | 34.23     |
| Parcel post labels .....            | .14       |
| Conventions .....                   | 237.75    |

---

Total .....\$1449.51

Savings, Home Savings and Loan, Waterloo, Iowa,  
December 31, 1964 .....\$ 662.18

## Membership

|                    |     |           |
|--------------------|-----|-----------|
| Regular .....      | 346 | \$1038.00 |
| Supporting .....   | 55  | 175.00    |
| Contributing ..... | 3   | 30.00     |
| Junior .....       | 15  | 15.00     |
|                    | 399 | \$1258.00 |

---

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Honorary members ..... | 7  |
| Societies .....        | 6  |
| Libraries .....        | 23 |
| Unpaid .....           | 32 |
| New members .....      | 55 |

Moved by Albert Berkowitz and seconded that report be accepted. Motion carried.

Peter C. Petersen, Jr. editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, reported that he had a surplus of material on hand to use in the present size of the journal; consequently expansion or elimination of material is necessary. He requested that reports cover trends in bird activity in relation to weather or other environmental factors. When sending bird counts, etc., to Woodward Brown, list the species in A.O.U. order, using the Field Check List as a guide.

Due to judicial duties, Judge Charles C. Ayres, Jr. chairman of the committee on the study of the effects of pesticides, was not present.

Dr. Vane named the following committees: Nominating, Albert Berkowitz, Chairman, Myra Willis, and John Paul Moore; Resolutions, Darrel Hanna, Chairman, Jack McLane and Esther Copp.

The Executive Council, according to the by-laws, acts as the Auditing Committee, checking the records of the Secretary-treasurer. Dean Roosa was appointed as Chairman.

Dr. Vane paid tribute to the three past presidents, who have passed away during the past year. Forrest Millikin, Sigourney, 1961-62; Dr. Peter P. Laude, Iowa City, 1959-60; and Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Mount Vernon, President, 1944-46 and Librarian, 1945-1965.

Acting upon the decision of the Executive Council to set up a fourth class of membership, a Life Membership, Dr. Vane requested Peter C. Petersen, Jr., to read the following:

## Proposed Changes to the By-laws

**Present Language** of Article I, Section 2

There shall be three classes of active memberships as follows: Contributing, Supporting, and Regular.

**Proposed Revised Language** for Article I, Section 2



There shall be four classes of active memberships as follows: Life, Contributing, Supporting, and Regular.

**Present Language of Article II, Section 1**

The annual dues for the three classes of active memberships shall be as follows:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Contributing members ..... | \$10.00 |
| Supporting members .....   | 5.00    |
| Regular members .....      | 3.00    |

**Proposed Revised Language for Article II, Section 1**

The annual dues for the three classes of active memberships shall be as follows:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Contributing members ..... | \$10.00 |
| Supporting members .....   | 5.00    |
| Regular members .....      | 3.00    |

The dues for life memberships are a single payment of \$100.00, or four annual payments of \$25.00 each.

Peter C. Petersen, Jr., moved for the acceptance of these By-laws; seconded by Homer Rinehart. Motion carried.

Request for an invitation for the fall meeting brought no response. The Executive Council arranged to have it at Jester Park near Des Moines, Sept. 18-19.

Dr. Vane gave special recognition to the following members: To Myrle and Margaret Jones, who will, upon Myrle's retirement as a Park Custodian, move to Arkansas. Many remember them as hosts at the fine meetings at the Ledges State Park, at Fort Defiance State Park, and at Bellevue State Park; to Dr. Warren Keck, North Central College, Naperville, Illinois, who was President of I.O.U. in 1941-42 and Librarian, 1942-1949, and who, in response, desired to become the first Life Member; to Shirley Briggs, Washington, D.C., Editor of the *Atlantic Naturalist*; to Fred and Rita Pierce for their display of books and for his wonderful record as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*.

Temporary adjournment.

Sunday afternoon, May 16, 1965, Dr. Vane called the members to order for the final business meeting.

At his request, Dean Roosa, Chairman of the Auditing Committee, reported the records of the Secretary-treasurer were in good order.

Albert Berkowitz, Chairman of the Nominating Committee moved that the following officers be re-elected:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| President .....           | Robert Vane   |
| Vice-president .....      | Mrs. Darrel Hanna   |
| Secretary-treasurer ..... | Dr. Myrle M. Burk   |
| Executive Council .....   | Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Fred Kent,<br>Robert Nickolson, Dean Roosa |

Seconded by Woodward Brown. Motion carried.

The office of Librarian not filled.

Darrel Hanna, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee moved that these resolutions be adopted:

Be it resolved: That the members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union express their deepest thanks as follows:

1. To the officers of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the Executive Council for their year of work and effort on behalf of our organization, the officers being Dr. Robert Vane, President; Mrs. Darrel Hanna, Vice-president; Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Secretary-treasurer, and the late Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Librarian, and Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Editor, and to the members of the Executive Council, Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Fred Kent, Robert Nickolson and Dean Roosa.

2. We give and express our special thanks to:
  - a. Peter C. Petersen, Jr., for his untiring efforts and diligent attention to every detail in planning, organizing, and executing this joint meeting with the Illinois Audubon Society.
  - b. The Illinois Audubon Society for joining with us in this convention and to Raymond Mostek, the President.
  - c. Davenport Public Museum for the generosity in making its beautiful buildings and facilities available to us. To the Director, Donald Herold, for his fine cooperation with us and the gracious hospitality and welcome given us by the Museum.
  - d. The registration committee for their service and work in preparing the registration matter and material and in manning the desk in a very efficient manner.
  - e. The Museum Guild Ladies for their refreshments and hospitality.
  - f. Maynard Reece and Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge for the loan of their paintings.
3. We also give and express our thanks to our speakers and panelists for an excellent program:
  - a. Terrence Ingram, for his talk and slides on "Winter Movement of Buteos".
  - b. T. E. Musselman "Mr. Bluebird".
  - c. Turner Nearing for his slides and talks on African Birds.
  - d. Urban Stratman for his movie on "Migrant Birds in the Davenport Area" and narrated by Peter C. Petersen, Jr.
  - e. Gerald Kaufman for his talk and slides pertaining to "Factors Affecting Marsh Bird Population in Iowa".
  - f. To Vernon Hagelin, moderator, and panelists Elton Fawks, Anthony Keith, and Lester Stone on "Pesticides".
4. Our thanks to:
  - a. The Northern Light Class of St. John's Methodist Church for an excellent dinner at our annual banquet.
  - b. Dr. Alfred Bailey, Director of the Denver Museum of Natural History for his fine film "Ecuador's Enchanted Isles".
5. Albert C. Berkowitz for generously printing our programs.
6. To Woodward H. Brown for his able compilations of the field reports for **Iowa Bird Life**.
7. To the capable leaders of the various field trips.
8. To Peter C. Petersen, Jr., for the fine performance of his duties as editor of **Iowa Bird Life**.
9. To Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pierce for their kind efforts in providing us with their fine book exhibit.

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell M. Hanna, Chairman  
 Esther Copp  
 Jack McLane

Committee on Resolutions

Moved by Darrell Hanna that resolutions be adopted, seconded by Albert Berkowitz. Motion Carried.

The tentative sites for the fall meeting are Jester Park and for the spring meeting, Iowa City.

This concluded the business meeting. Compilation of birds seen on Saturday in Illinois and on Sunday in Iowa followed.

#### FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, May 15, these birding areas in Illinois were on the itinerary: Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, Rock Island Arsenal, Blackhawk State Park, Barstow Area, Cordova Quarry, Meridosia Slough.

With Elton Fawks acting as compiler, a list of 123 species was compiled. The following species were recorded on Saturday only: Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Stilt Sandpiper, Acadian Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Solitary Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, Pine Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and White-crowned Sparrow.

Sunday morning birding began early on the Iowa side of the river. Unfortunately, Credit Island, which many desired to explore, was inaccessible due to the recent flooding of the Mississippi River. Other good areas yielded a count of 144 species. These included Lock No. 14, marshland near the mouth of the Wapsipinicon, McCausland Area, Dixon-Allen's Grove Area, all parts of the Wapsipinicon Valley to Olin, Muskrat Slough, Weise Slough, Conesville, and Wildcat Den State Park.

The following list of birds seen was compiled with Charles G. Ayres, Jr. as leader. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) were seen on Sunday only. Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Common Egret, \*American Bittern, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, \*Shoveler, Wood Duck, \*Ring-necked Duck, \*Lesser Scaup, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, \*Broad-winged Hawk, \*Swainson's Hawk, \*Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, \*Sora, Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, \*Golden Plover, Common Snipe, \*Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper,

White-rumped Sandpiper, \*Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, \*Semipalmated Sandpiper, \*Western Sandpiper, \*Common Tern, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, \*Black-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, \*Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch,

House Wren, \*Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, \*Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, \*Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, \*Prothonotary Warbler, \*Golden-winged Warbler, \*Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, \*Myrtle Warbler, \*Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, \*Northern Waterthrush, \*Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, \*Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole,

\*Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, \*Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, \*Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, \*Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

This concluded the Convention; the members scattered to the various parts of Iowa, Illinois and farther, with memories of good fellowship and good birding. Adjournment.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER**—AMES: Michael Burns. BELLEVUE: Mr. and Mrs. Myrle M. Jones. BETTENDORF: Larry Dau, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Price, Norman Ward, Jr. BURLINGTON: Mrs. Lowell Fuller, Frieda Haffner, Mrs. Ory and Peter Lowther, Jack McLane, Louise Stempel, Suzanne Wart. CEDAR FALLS: Frances Crouter, Rodger, Thomas, and Charles Moon, Mrs. Oren Paine, Pauline Sauer, Mrs. Charles Schwanke, Maxine Schwanke. CEDAR RAPIDS: Eleanore Fullerton, Virginia Olson, Lillian Serbousek, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Myra Willis. CLINTON: H. J. Hodges, Dr. and Mrs. Ross King. DAVENPORT: Steve Aupperle, Harry G. Carl, Leon Fox, Don Herold, Ralph Heuer, Herman Jauch, Edwin Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Peter Petersen, Sr., Byron Robinson, Honora Schwarz, Urban Stratman, Joe Tracy. DES MOINES: Albert Berkowitz, Woodward H. Brown, Mrs. Jay M. Lynch, Mrs. Gladys and Mrs. Russel Nicholson, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley. DUBUQUE: Gerald Kaufmann, Ival M. Schuster. FARLEY: Mr. and Mrs. George Crossley. GOLDFIELD: Dean M. Roosa. HANLANTOWN: Barton E. Sutter. HUMBOLDT: Mrs. Dorothy Toyne. IOWA CITY: Lee Eberly, Linda Faaborg, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kent.

JEFFERSON: John Faaborg. KEOKUK: Alois Weber. KILLDUFF: Ann Louise Moore. MARION: Mrs. Lucile Liljedahl. MARSHALLTOWN: Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart. MT. PLEASANT: George E. Crane. NEWTON: Carlos and Norma Andreo, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Moore. OSKALOOSA: Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton. OTTUMWA: Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Hallberg, Jay and Lee Pulis, Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Snook. SIOUX CITY: Mrs. W. W. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Davison, Bob De Loss, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell M. Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Kirkpatrick, Robert Nicholson. WATERLOO: Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Gene and Virginia Cody, Mr. and Mrs. Norval C. Flynn, Mrs. Maybelle Hinkley, Margaret Nagel, Mr. and Mrs. John Osness, Nick Osness. WHEATLAND: C. Esther Copp. WINTHROP: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pierce.

ILLINOIS—CHICAGO: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dvorak. DECATUR: Mr. and Mrs. C. Turner Nearing. EAST MOLINE: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink, Vernon Hagelin. HAMPTON: Lester Stone. JOY: Ted Greer. MOLINE: Mr. and Mrs. Elton Fawks. NAPERVILLE: Warren Keck. NORMAL: Dale Birkenholz. QUINCY: T. E. Musselman. DENVER, COLO.: Dr. Alfred Bailey. GOLETA, CALIF.: Dr. Mary Price Roberts. LA MOILLE, MINN.: Pauline Wershofen. LONDON, ENGLAND: Rosamund Downton. MADISON, WISC.: Tony Kieth. PLATTEVILLE, WISC.: Dale Carlson, Maida Hay, Terrence Ingram. WASHINGTON, D.C.: Shirley Briggs. (Only speakers and Iowa members from Illinois are listed—121 more Illinois Audubon Society members were registered.)

## IN MEMORIAM: J. HAROLD ENNIS

ROBERT F. VANE

2220 Grande Ave. S.E.  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union lost one of its most respected, able and dedicated leaders when Dr. J. Harold Ennis passed away in his sleep Sunday morning, March 21, 1965. We shall all deeply miss this outstanding teacher, this diligent worker, this ardent conservationist, this man of principle, this delightful companion on bird walks.



DR. J. HAROLD ENNIS

James Harold Ennis was born Oct. 9, 1902, on a farm south of Tama, Ia., to James G. and Edna May Rosenberger Ennis. Public school was followed by graduation from Cornell College with a B.A. degree in 1925. Receiving a Roberts Fellowship, he attended Columbia University and received an M.A. degree in 1926. While there he was selected for an Eastman Fellowship and attended Brookings Institute Graduate School at Washington, D.C., in 1926-27.

His path then led to an instructorship in economics and sociology at Doane College, Crete, Neb., where he became head of the department, serving in that capacity from 1930 to 1935.

Further studies at the University of Iowa in 1935-36 resulted in a Ph.D. degree. Two years then followed on the faculty of the University of Nebraska, and in 1938 he returned to his alma mater, Cornell College, as head of the sociology department where he had since remained.

While teaching at Doane, he met Vivian Roberts who was also on the faculty, and on Aug. 15, 1930, they were married in Denison. His widow survives as do two children, Martha-Jo, an elementary school teacher in Cedar Rapids, and Lt. (J.G.) J. David Ennis, USN, on duty with the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. There is one grandson, J. Scott Ennis.

It was soon after Harold Ennis' return to Cornell College in 1938 that I first heard of him in glowing terms from a cousin of mine who was attending Cornell at the time. My cousin spoke of a learned young professor who was so extraordinarily helpful to his students and showed such concern for their welfare. He aided them in obtaining summer research projects, scholarships and other grants, only too welcome during those lean years. About this time before World War II, Harold Ennis' path and mine crossed in the field of ornithology, and records show that Harold was a member of the I.O.U. since 1941.

Let us look into some of the facets of this good man and marvel that he compressed all the things he did into such a short span before his untimely passing.

First must be mentioned that Harold Ennis was a devoted churchman and active member of the Mt. Vernon Methodist church. He served on many commissions and committees and was for nearly 20 years secretary of the official board and quarterly conference. He held a local preacher's license in the church.

Professor Ennis served Cornell loyally and devotedly for more than a quarter of a century. With midwestern friendliness and charm, he conducted his college teaching with rare understanding and patience for his students. New faculty members were warmly welcomed by this friendly, outgoing personality who presided at the weekly faculty dinners. Harold Ennis not only served the college as Alumni professor of Sociology and Economics and chairman of the department, but he was also the Cornell faculty representative to the Midwest Athletic Conference and served as its president from 1962-63. He also conceived the idea and did much of the research which resulted in the publication in 1964 of a "History of the Midwest Athletic Conference."

He taught during summers at the University of Iowa, the State College of Iowa, the University of Missouri and the University of Michigan where he became well acquainted with the outstanding ornithologist, Josselyn Van Tyne.

Dr. Ennis was the author of a biography of Alexander James Dallas, a co-author of **Principles of Sociology**, and a contributor to the **Dictionary of Sociology** and **Dictionary of American Biography**, both standard reference works. His field of sociology led him into a study of anthropology and archaeology and he pursued a continuing study of the native Indian cultures in Iowa. He had an intense interest in effigy mounds and Indian artifacts of which of the latter he had a large collection.

Professor Ennis was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Gamma Mu, Phi Kappa Delta, American Sociological Association, Midwest Sociological Society and was first president of the Cornell chapter of Tau Kappa Alpha, forensic society. He served as chairman of the Conservation section of the Iowa Academy of Science. Dr. Ennis was curator of the Memorial Library of Ornithology at Cornell which is one of the most complete in the state.

For nearly two decades one of his favorite extra-curricular activities was in the Boy Scout movement. He was a member of the Hawkeye Area Council serving as vice-president and a member of the executive board. On May 7, 1961, he was presented with the Silver Beaver award of the Boy Scouts of America as a testimony to a lifetime of interest in Scout work.

Other of his activities included an appointment by the governor in 1949 to a four year term on the Iowa Natural Resources Council. He also served on the Governor's Committee on Economic Planning. During World War II, Dr. Ennis served on several war labor board panels for arbitration of labor disputes.

Harold Ennis was a member of our first Linn County Conservation Board and had served both as secretary and later as its president. To this beloved conservation activity he gave and gave of his time and energies. Single-handedly, when attorneys said it couldn't be done, he prepared a dossier to submit to the Rock Island Railroad president, and our Rock Island Botanical Preserve is the result. From Mr. Sutherland Dows, president of Iowa Electric Light and Power, he sought and received 150 acres adjacent to the Palisades-Kepler State Park as a nature preserve in our county park system. Illustrating the deep and far-seeing conservation ethic of these two gentlemen, Mr. Dows and Dr. Ennis, the offer and acceptance agreement states, "This tract is to be inviolate as a botanical and biological preserve for its beauty, (and) its potential as a wildlife preserve . . ."



DR. J. HAROLD ENNIS ON HIS LAST FIELD TRIP

Photo by F. W. Kent

Abbe Creek School museum was a favorite project as was the Jay G. Sigmund Park near Waubeek. He was so anxious in all his conservation work to acquire the land before it was too late.

In the field of ornithology, Harold Ennis was an indefatigable worker. At an early age, he showed a marked interest in ornithology. In early years, Sunday afternoon bird walks with his father were often a reward for attending church in the morning. He was a member of the American Ornithologists' Union, the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society and the Cedar Rapids Bird Club.

He served as president of the I.O.U. for two years, 1944-46. He not only served but he worked in his presidential office sending out hundreds of letters seeking new members, hosting a convention in Mt. Vernon almost by himself. Since 1948 he had been the trusted Librarian of the I.O.U. as well as an invaluable advisor. As Librarian, he had attempted to complete as many sets as possible of *Iowa Bird Life* for deposit in higher institutions of learning. After a tremendous amount of correspondence, he was able to publish in *Iowa Bird Life*, Vol. XXX, No. 4, a list of institutional libraries

containing a complete set of **Iowa Bird Life**. At the time of his passing he was working on a listing of individuals in the same manner. He was the author of numerous articles in **Iowa Bird Life** as well as being represented in the **Iowa Conservationist** and the **Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science**.

His writings in **Iowa Bird Life** are listed in the five year indices of that quarterly. A paper of note in the **Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science** is entitled "The County Conservation Program in Iowa" and is found in Vol 69 (1962), pages 219-223.

In the Cedar Rapids Bird Club, he served as president from 1957-59. During his term as president, he stressed publication and history, and this culminated in a special issue of **I.B.L.** celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Cedar Rapids club. In this anniversary issue were set down some pertinent ornithological data for generations to come concerning our club and area.

Dr. Ennis had a warm personality and was intensely interested in people. He sought out for learning and advice such men in the ornithological field as Arthur Cleveland Bent, Dr. Paul Bartsch, Dr. T. C. Stephens and others. In his many trips to our club meetings he reported on these men in addition to speaking frequently on ornithological subjects.

Now at the time of his passing, he had at hand the complete notes of Dr. Charles Reuben Keyes, his revered colleague at Cornell, Bruce Stiles, Dr. T. C. Stephens and others which were to have been used in a new "Birds of Iowa."

Some of the author's happiest experiences have been on field trips with Harold Ennis. It has been my privilege to go on countless trips with him, ranging from photographic trips in his own back yard to such other points as the Jasper-Pulaski Preserve in Indiana for Sandhill Cranes, the Hayden Prairie for Henslow's Sparrows, Forney Lake for the Blue and Snow Goose flight. How delighted he was to show us a nest of a Pileated Woodpecker in the Painted Rock Wilderness area near Monticello. How enthusiastic he was on the Christmas Bird Censuses which he loved so much!

Here was a friend who always gave of his best. A jolly, happy companion, he was always eager to share his vast knowledge. On one of the last walks through the Dows-Palisades area, through Dark Hollow as the ravine is called, he pointed out not only birds that he knew were nesting there but details of botany, geology and archaeology. A man of integrity, he was always a man of highest principles. He gave himself unstintingly to every task. In all the years I have known him, I have never known him to show anger or to speak ill of anyone. He seemed to have an inner serenity which comforted and quieted an anxious friend. He was a devoted family man.

Mt. Vernon and Cornell College paid their last respects to Dr. Ennis at services in the Methodist Church Tuesday, March 23, 1965, at 10 a.m. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery, Tama, near his birthplace. Tributes were paid to him by Dr. Albion R. King and Dr. Eric Kollman. The latter, a colleague on the faculty, said in part, "He never lost his sense of humor and was always a gentle man and a gentleman . . . an inspiration to everybody."

And with a twinkle in his eye and with his keen sense of humor, I shall always remember my friend, J. Harold Ennis: friend of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, friend of Cornell College, and friend of conservation.



## FIELD REPORTS

March was cold with snow remaining on the ground, and considerable rain. April, while temperatures were normal, had excessive rainfall. May has been warm thus far with foliage popping out suddenly. It is rather generally agreed that the weather was responsible for a late migration, and when the birds did arrive they didn't tarry.

Some comments: "A very late migration sums it up for Union Slough Refuge. When they came, birds stopped only briefly." (PF); "Early migrants were delayed by late spring, but as weather improved the later ones were closer to schedule." (PP); "Blizzards in February and March and snow staying on the ground very late, made for a cold, wet, late, spring." (DH); "Winter-like March delayed arrivals of early migrants. Usual arrivals of March didn't show up until April first." (FK); "A very poor vireo and warbler migration." (JF); "A disappointing migration, all waterfowl and marsh birds late." (DP).

**Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants.** Only one Common Loon was seen at Union Slough, (PF); but four at the Des Moines Reservoir on 8 May were unusual. Single Horned Grebes were seen, (DK, FK, PF); but on 23 April Albert Berkowitz recorded 10 at the Reservoir. One Eared Grebe was at Union Slough, while there were 12 to 15 on 2 and 3 May at Sioux City. A Western Grebe was at Big Wall Lake on 15 May, (Dick)—see longer note. Pied-billed were in large numbers compared with previous years, (RM); but the contrary was the case at Des Moines. White Pelicans were seen numbers: 142 at Union Slough, 700 at Dunbar Slough 18 April, (JF), and 200 over the Grand River on the early date 11 April, (DG). The largest concentration of Double-crested Cormorants seems to have been 50-60 at Lake Macbride on 21 April. (FK).

**Hérons.** Herons were late to arrive, but in good numbers by 18 May, (PP). Great Blue Herons were seen regularly, (RM), but scarce at Des Moines. Six Green Herons at Union Slough were the only significant report of this formerly common species. Common Egrets were seen at both Dunbar Slough and Goose Lake, (JF); Lamoni, Des Moines, and Sioux City, although there was but one at the latter place. Union Slough seems the principal habit of the Black-crowned Night Heron. Yellow-crowned were reported from Ogden, 18 April, and along the Raccoon River on 4 May, (JF). Two were seen 20 May near Des Moines where they were thought to have nested last year. American Bitterns were reported from Goose Lake, (JF), and Union Slough.

**Geese, Ducks.** Some general comments on the waterfowl: "Bad weather struck as the duck migration started, and held them back three or four weeks. Then they came fast and in large flocks," (DH). "A very good waterfowl migration; geese and ducks uncommonly numerous. One Canada with an orange leg-band," (JK). "Numerous flocks of Blue and Snow Geese from 5 to 10 April. Six Canadas as late as 18 May." (DG) "Heavy goose migration 7 April (GB), "Few geese" (Dick). "Many fewer geese than usual." (HMcK). "Diving ducks in good numbers by 28 March, a little late. Puddle ducks fewer." (PP). "Canadas peaked at 108, but there were only three Snows. A maximum of 3,100 ducks were present 22 April." (PF). Specific references: "Large numbers of Blue-winged Teal, but few Green-winged." (DH). "Blue-winged in goodly numbers, Shovelers few, but there had been none seen in the past two years. Lesser Scaup numerous." (GB). Good numbers of Redheads—twice as many as Ring-necked. Only occasional Canvasbacks." (DH). "A good number of Hooded Mergansers." (GB). Buffleheads were more numerous than before, (RM, WHB) and one pair seen, (JF). Red-breasted Mergansers still present

at Princeton on 9 May, (PP), and 10 seen at the Des Moines Reservoir, 1 May. Mrs. Harold V. Whitmus at Forney's Lake on 14 March saw a duck which, after comparison of the field marks with Pough's "Waterbird Guide" and Peter Scott's "Coloured Key", they identified as a Masked Duck.

**Hawks.** Opinions differ regarding the hawk activity. Migrating hawks were thought fewer this year, (FK), and very few observed this spring, (DH). A large early migration, mostly Red-tailed, Rough-legged and some Swainson's, (DP). A large flight of Cooper's Broad-winged, and Red-tailed 7 April, (JK). A poor accipiter year, (DR), and very poor accipiter migration, (JF). A Goshawk on Black Hawk Creek on 5 April, (RH), and one at Union Slough all of March. Red-tails down considerably and many nesting areas vacant, (DR); nesting pairs down somewhat, (EB); two pairs nesting, (GB); and also two pairs nesting in Ames area where a Krider's was observed, (Dick). Abundant, (DG). Many hawks were observed by Russell Hays; 30 Red-tailed in the Crane Creek area 5 April, 10 on 7 April, 100-plus Red-tailed and Broad-winged on 6 April, and 350 Broad-winged, 11 Peregrines, 6 Sparrow Hawks, and 1 Sharp-shinned on 20 April. One Red-shouldered has been seen since early winter, (Dick). Swainson's: have increased over last year with at least two nests and three additional pairs in their area, (DR); a nest with three eggs on 16 May, (PP); one or two pairs apparently nesting but are not common in the area, (EB); one observation, (JF). One adult Golden Eagle and an adult Bald Eagle the only ones seen, (PF). Peregrine Falcons were seen: Forney's Lake, 28 March, (RH); Big Wall Lake, 16 April, (RM); and Goose Lake, 18 April, (JF). Two Pigeon Hawk records: 31 March, (JF), and 24 April, (RM). Sparrow Hawks: almost no reports, (DH); none since several seen in March, (GB); fewest in recent years, (RM); not many in Des Moines; but up from last year—good migration, (DR); and greatly increased, (JF).

**Bobwhites, Pheasants.** Good numbers of Bobwhites observed in all sections of the township, (GB). Despite news reports of winter kill ranging up to 75% in some parts of Iowa and Minnesota; Ring-necked Pheasants appear up, (Dick); wintered well, (DH); and, are much more common, (RM).

**Rails, Shorebirds.** Most of the shorebirds appear to have migrated through the Jefferson area where Willets were seen. Dowitchers were common. Wilson's Phalaropes were much more abundant, and 15 Hudsonian Godwits were among 1,500 birds at Dunbar Slough on 18 May, (JF). Other areas were less fortunate: "Worst shorebird year seen around Goldfield", (DR); "Short on shorebirds generally," (DH); "Floods created too much shorebird habitat," (PP); "All ponds and lakes full and overflowing, not attractive to shorebirds," (DG); "Practically none," (GB). Few mentioned rails, but American Coots were abundant in many places; very numerous, (JK); 1,300 during the week of April 22nd, (PF); present in thousands, (RM); and flocks of from 2-400 seen at Des Moines on several dates. A Piping Plover was seen on 28 April, (FK). Killdeer were scarce, (GB, EB, WHB, RM); and not thought as many as other years, (DG); but there were two waves, one in March and the other in May, (Dick). Either a wintering bird or very early migrant was one seen 2 February, (RH). Golden Plover were widely scattered: 500 at Castalia, 40 at New Hampton, 50 at Allison, and 30 at Big Marsh, (DK); 19 seen 9 May, (JF); 25 on 7 May, (DG); and several flocks at Des Moines. Two Black-bellied were seen at Princeton 9 May (PP). Woodcock reported were: 2 banded and another seen, (PP); 2 seen 18 April, (Dick); seen six times, the first in years, (JF); and 1 at Union Slough. Snipe were thought common, (Dick). Two Whimbrels were seen at Conesville 19 May by George Schrimper, (FK). A good year for Upland Plover, (PP); the first seen on the early date 11 April, and seen

regularly since, (DG). Both yellow-legs were common, (RM, WHB). A few Pectorals but no others but yellow-legs with 50-70 in one field, (GB). Peeps in good numbers in some places, but others, such as Conesville, barren, (PP), and almost none seen, (WHB). Wilson's Phalaropes much more abundant, (JF); 100-plus on 24 April along Little Sioux, (DH). An Avocet was seen by the Peasleys on 8 May.

**Gulls, Terns.** Franklin's Gulls were seen on several occasions, but not in numbers of other years, (JK); 4 or 5 flocks seen on trip home from Davenport, (DH); a flock seen on 2 May by William Youngworth, (DH). A Common Tern recorded 8 May, Black Terns not as numerous as usual, (JK); 100-150 at Big Wall Lake 15-16 May, (Dick); most ever seen, (RM).

**Doves, Cuckoos, Goatsuckers.** Doves have not been plentiful, and no cuckoos seen, (GB). Cuckoos were late, (DP), and almost none seen, (WHB). Whip-poor-wills are being heard in Des Moines, and were found along the Missouri River on 10 May by William Felton. A large flock of Common Nighthawks seen by William Youngworth was the earliest for him by two days, (DH).

**Owls, Swifts, Hummingbirds.** There has been no sign of the Burrowing Owl colony found last year, (EB), but one was found near Carroll by John Brouhard, (FK). Chimney Swifts are up, the last big flock being seen 7 May, (DR); not many seen, (GB, WHB). Only two Hummingbirds found, (GB).

**Woodpeckers.** Yellow-shafted Flickers were abundant in April, (GB, Dick, WHB); 50-60 per trip not uncommon, (RM); 100 at least seen 20 April, (RH); more than usual, (FK). Redheaded were definitely up from last few years, (GB); common from late April, (Dick); and pretty fair numbers again, (DH). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a good migration, (GB); and more than usual, (FK, WHB).

**Flycatchers, Swallows, Creepers, Wrens.** Eastern Kingbirds are few, (FK). A Western Kingbird seen by William Youngworth was early on 2 May, (DH). Four Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded 18 May, with the total banded exceeding the combined total of the three Empidonax, (PP); and one was seen 23 May, in Des Moines. Say's Phoebe nest was found under a concrete bridge and another in a building, (EB). An Olive-sided Flycatcher on 28 April, (WHB). A mixed flock of 250-300 Bank, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows was at Big Wall Lake 16 May, (Dick). A late Winter Wren was banded 26 April, (PP). Brown Creepers were scarce in winter, but picked up in late March, (Dick) and more than usual were seen, (EB). A Carolina Wren was observed 4 May, (JF), and another at Des Moines was the first in several years.

**Mimics, Thrushes.** One Mockingbird found where they have nested in other years, (GB), and one seen near Ames on 9 May, (Dick). Robins more numerous in the city, (FK). Few Wood Thrushes seen or heard in Des Moines. Hermit Thrushes: common in April, (Dick); more than usual, (FK); up somewhat, (EB, JF); one netted on an early date, (MJ). Swainson's unusually numerous and more Gray-cheeked than usual in Des Moines. Swainson's quite numerous but few others, (DH). Good flight of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked and a few Veeries, (EB). At least 30 Gray-cheeked seen on 7 May, (RH). All thrushes up, especially Swainson's and Bluebirds, (DR). An unusually poor migration of Swainson's, (GB), and, only one netted, (MJ). Bluebirds were quite late in arriving but are at least as numerous as in the past two years, (SP); over 30% occupancy in 60 boxes erected this year, (GB); plentiful, seen about every trip, (RM).

**Kinglets, Pipits, Shrikes, Vireos.** Ruby-crowned Kinglets: waves on 8, 17, 19, 26 April, (JK); never saw as many as this spring, (RM); and many seen, (GB). Water Pipits were scarce and seen on only two days,

(DG). Loggerhead Shrikes down, (GB), way down, (EB), none all spring, (JF), only one seen, (RM), fewer, (FK, WHB). Several White-eyed Vireos recorded at Oakdale and Princeton, (PP). A few Bell's, Red-eyed not seen but may come later, and not many Warbling Vireos, (DH). Yellow-throated singing "all over the place", (MJ). A Wave of Red-eyed 19 May after a cold front through Des Moines. Very few vireos seen, (GB).

**Warblers, Blackbirds.** The consensus is that Tennessee Warblers have been numerous, but with few exceptions others have been scarce. Plenty of Tennessees and not much else but Nashvilles and Yellowthroats which were in good numbers, (GB); Tennessees the only common warbler, (PL); heavy flight of Tennessees and a good flight of Magnolias, but others scarce, (EB); a mild wave on 4 May with variety but not numbers, and a similar wave on 8 May with a noticeable lack of all species but Tennessee, (FK); no waves or build-ups, only steady flows never amounting to much, (DP); most were scarce or in a hurry to get by, (MJ). Waves were noticed at Davenport on the same dates as those at Iowa City, plus one 23, 24 May, (PP). George Marsh reported a "massive wave" of warblers on 16 May, and Mrs. Marsh a Worm-eating on 7 May, (DH). Nashvilles were common the first half of May, (Dick). The rather rare Golden-winged was banded, (PP); and three or four seen at Des Moines with one at Bellevue. The large total of 72 Northern Waterthrushes were banded, (PP). Yellowthroats; never so many seen in May, (Dick); but, none heard, (MJ). Redstarts numerous, (MJ).

**Finches.** A poor sparrow migration, (GB). Most sparrows not seen in usual numbers, (DP). Indigo Buntings more numerous, (MJ). Dickcissels absent, (JK). Purple Finches scarce, (PP); seen only twice, (JF); only one record, (RM). Only one Rufous-sided Towhee all spring, (RH), one of the *P. e. arcticus* variety seen on 11 April, a late date, (JK). Lark Buntings were seen 15 April, (HMcK); and one male on 10 May, and six males and a female on the 21st. Birds were singing on the latter date, and several more including four females were seen 27 May (EB), also a male near Lamoni on 28 May (DG). Savannahs were many, (EB). LeConte's fairly common, (JF). At least six Henslow's and perhaps more were at Goose Lake, (RM). Six Sharp-tailed were seen on 3 May, (EB). Vesper were many, (EB). Clay-colored: best year seen at Goldfield, (DR); most ever seen, (JF). Harris'; still around on 12 May, (JF), some seen nearly every trip, (RM). White-crowned: up somewhat, (EB); few at Burlington or Des Moines. Fox, more than usual, and for longer period, (FK). Lincoln's, seen on the early date 6 April. Swamp; an early observation on 20 March, (PL); more seen than usual, (EB). Lapland Longspurs: a male in full breeding plumage on 12 May, a new late date, (EB); a large migration the first week in April with an estimated 2,500 seen in one day, (JF); 1,000-plus in the fields on 12 and 13 March, and three on the late date 28 April, (DG). Corrigendum. March issue, page 25, for Barn Owls, read Barred Owls.

Contributors: Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Eldon Bryant, Akron; John Faaborg, Jefferson; Paul E. Ferguson, Union Slough Refuge; Mrs. Edwin Getscher, Hamburg; J. Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Myrle Jones, Bellevue; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Fred W. Kent, Iowa City; Dick Knight, Ames; Darwin Koenig, Castalia; Peter Lowther, Burlington; Howard McKinley, Russell; Ron Muilenburg, Webster City; Stephen Patterson, Perry; Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport; Don Peterson, Ames; Dean Roosa, Goldfield. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll, Des Moines, 50312.

## GENERAL NOTES

**Baltimore Orioles Nesting Near the Sherman Swift Tower, Harpers Ferry, Iowa**—Unusual in numbers were the Baltimore Orioles nesting near the Sherman Swift Tower, located at the Andy Mountain Campground valley near Harpers Ferry, this past spring.

I observed the young leave seven nests within 113 feet of each other and the nearest nest was 24 feet from the Tower.

While busy with construction near the Campground entrance we found one nest immediately above our office building which we watched numerous times, apparently starting about egg-laying time. Other orioles were in and around the trees constantly and it was not until the young birds were about grown, ready to leave the nests and extremely noisy, that the remainder of the seven nests found and observed frequently as the young were being constantly fed.

All nests were from 12' to 28' from the ground. Four were in cottonwoods, two in elms and one built on a Virginia creeper vine growing near the end of a dead butternut limb. Four nests were typical slung on the lower ends of down drooping limbs and beside the vine-hung nest the remaining two were slung in almost the topmost crotch of top tree branches in almost upright fashion as compared to the usual hung from a limb-tip fashion. After use, all seven nests were cut down and kept for exhibit purposes in the Tower.

Five of the 7 are typical woven nests made of strong stringy fibers. Two are made almost entirely of bluegrass stems apparently from one lot nearby which was cut when about a foot tall and headed out before being cut in late spring. One of these bluegrass nests broke out at the bottom as the large young birds were ready to leave the nest. Apparently the weight of the birds proved a bit too much for poorer building qualities of the woven blue grass stems.

A good bit of the feeding of the young birds was done with green caterpillar-like worms about one and one-half to two inches long and approximately one-fourth inch in diameter. These worms invariably had a sort of spike about one-half inch long near one end, easily seen with field glasses as the adult perched atop the nest hole at feeding. Both adults fed constantly and called back and forth continually while in the process. While the birds were younger, it often took a half-dozen pokes for the adult bird to get rid of the worm, though later it seemed to work the worm into the mouth of the young much faster. I've never seen an adult bringing more than one worm at a time. About every third or fourth time the adult fed, it would then go further down into the next and emerge with sizeable white dropping which was then dropped off in flight approximately 30' from the nest as the adult flew to a perch to wipe its bill on a limb and then on to find another worm.

I've said many times I do believe we have a nest of birds of one kind or another in every tree here at Andy Mountain with Chipping Sparrows, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Cardinals, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Kingbird, several other kinds of sparrows, including two nests of House Sparrows in our trees, Bluebirds, thrush, Phoebe, and of course, Robins, numerous woodpeckers and Wood Ducks. The numbers of bugs and worms these birds feed their broods of young must be fantastic.

When Baltimore Orioles nest in these concentrations, no wonder we sometimes happen to see "bunches" now and then. All these seven nests emptied within four or five days of the first. No doubt there were others that will not show up until leaves fall as numerous orioles were seen often at other locations about the area during the Spring. A few days after the birds left the nests the black-cap raspberries were ripening. Several clumps left about the area on being approached would flush 5, 6 or 7 orioles with a Catbird or

flicker. Then abruptly all orioles seemed to move elsewhere and through the summer and fall other birds came and went but very seldom was an oriole heard or seen. Nothing was seen being fed at the nests except the caterpillars described. It seemed to be their most entire diet. The Orchard Oriole was seen here on numerous occasions in summers of 1962 and 1963 but none was observed here this past season. Here was a bird (the Baltimore Oriole) I had believed to be almost a stranger, with seven successful nests averaging just a bit more than 100 feet from each other.

We spend a lot of time and money at Andy Mountain Campground each year, cutting and recutting weeds, brush, and grass. Often I have contemplated use of spray, etc. to eliminate for longer periods the lush growth in many locations we must keep cleared off. This experience with the great numbers of birds has been most enlightening in that it would seem that a couple dollars of chemical might not just affect one or two birds here and there but actually result in discomfort or death to a really great number of birds. We all continually read and observe many areas of bird and other wildlife nesting and feeding habitat being eliminated in our constant changing and so-called refinement of our land. In my opinion, it will take a great lot of elimination to create the havoc of a very little poisoning of the food going to the young in the nests, as well as the adult birds. It seems that what might be needed is an effective weed spray that is of course harmless when eaten by man, animal or bird. Until such is developed and after all that shouldn't be too much of a problem for our scientists and/or government to figure out, I feel we will no doubt continue to cut where necessary and not spray. Seriously I urge you lovers of birds to do the same.

NOTE: When the leaves dropped fully, an additional 6 oriole nests were spotted in the immediate vicinity of the 7 that were known to be successful. Without exceptions these 6 appeared to all be new nests in very good condition when examined with field glasses. It seems entirely probable that part or all of the additional 6 were successful along with the 7 known to be. What a fantastic number in this limited area! The 6 additional nests have not been cut down. I just haven't had time to do it. But I do believe it will be best to leave them to study the theory of reuse of the now old nests with the other individual nest trees etc. I'm looking forward to some most interesting observing again next year. R. W. DAUBENDIEK, 504 Center Ave., Decorah

**Lake Ahquabi: A Weekend of Birding**—On the weekend of November 7 and 8 Troop 142 and myself had the privilege of camping at Lake Ahquabi State Park. The weather was warm and sunny with little wind.

I took a field trip Saturday into a large area of red cedars along the entrance road to the camping grounds. Large numbers of Blue Jays, Robins, and Cardinals were found in the area feeding. At one time I crept upon six Blue Jays heckling an immature Peregrine Falcon which was perched in a sumac thicket. I had time to observe the barred tail and the distinctive mustache. I also heard his call which is quite different from any other hawk. Twice the Falcon tried to lose the Jays by flying through the cedars. Even with his tremendous speed the slower Blue Jays managed to keep in sight. I have no idea why the Falcon didn't fly to some other area or attack his pursuers. As evening fell he was still to be found in the cedars.

On the way back to camp I flushed fifty Crows from a small stand of cedars near the road. The crows were very closely grouped and had difficulty extricating themselves. That night I was lulled to sleep by the hooting of Great Horned and Barred Owls.

Sunday morning started out with heavy mist but cleared up quickly. I searched the entire lake but could find only twelve Pied-billed Grebes. Before lunch my brother, Bill Wildman, and I set out to beat the cedars in hopes of seeing owls. We did manage to see several Great Horned Owls. Also a

group of twelve Short-eared Owls were flushed from the cedar trees and quickly dispersed over the surrounding fields. Three black thumb mark was seen clearly. A few Long-eared Owls were also observed.

After lunch we brought the troop back in hopes of seeing the owls again. We did manage to show the boys some interesting views of the owls, and also had the great pleasure of watching an immature Golden Eagle and a Sharp-shinned Hawk soaring over the surrounding hills. All-in-all it was a most enjoyable weekend. After all, fine weather coupled with an abundance of birds are all any budding ornithologist could ask for. DICK KNIGHT, 332 Westwood Drive, Ames, Iowa.

**Screech Owl Behavior—May 9, 1965—**While observing a nesting Red-tailed Hawk in some woods north of Ames, I surprised a Screech Owl from a hollow log. The owl flew to the top branches of a large American Elm. Immediately a Red-headed Woodpecker started screeching loudly above the owl. Within two minutes a dozen other smaller birds joined in. Eventually the owl flew off with the pestering birds after it. I identified the following birds about the owl: two Red-headed Woodpeckers, two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (male and female), four Warbling Vireos, two Nashville Warblers, and two Black-capped Chickadees. Bent mentions smaller birds attacking Screech and Saw-whet Owls if they are found out in the daytime. DICK KNIGHT, 332 Westwood Drive, Ames.

**Western Grebe in Wright County—**On May 15, 1965, while observing Black Terns at Big Wall Lake (Wright County), I chanced to see a large grebe feeding in the water. It had a long white throat with the back of it black. Checking my field guide I found it to be a Western Grebe. Ten more minutes of watching verified my observations. The grebe was feeding in open water among a small number of Coots. Later in the evening the Western Grebe was again seen in the area preening itself. In the March, 1965 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*, Barton Sutter cited two observations of this bird in north central Iowa. As the grebe is still a rare migrant I felt my observation would be of some importance. DICK KNIGHT, 332 Westwood Drive, Ames.

**Sparrow Hawk Lives Up To It's Name—**Between April 7th and April 15, 1965, I observed two Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*), one male and one female, in the area of my bird-banding operations in a wooded and grassy section in the south part of the State College of Iowa campus, Cedar Falls, Iowa. First observed was the male, and a day or two later I also noticed the female. Both birds would occasionally perch on the power lines running on the edge of my banding area and directly over two of my mist nets. On April 11, 1965, I saw the adult male Sparrow Hawk stoop from a tall Cottonwood tree and capture a sparrow (species unknown) which was perched atop a small bush in a grass field and about one hundred and ten yards from the hawk's perch. After capturing the sparrow, the hawk returned to a perch in a tree near the one he had left and proceeded to eat the slain bird.

On April 13, 1965, I observed this same male Sparrow Hawk (I believe it to be the same one) attack birds in my nets three times, (twice within 5 minutes) and each time it instantly killed the bird which it struck. The birds killed in the nets were: Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*), and two Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*). Only one bird was eaten because I was close enough to drive the hawk away when it struck the first two. The birds were in shelves 4, 2 and 1 respectively, as they are numbered from the bottom in a standard four shelf 1½ inch mesh mist net. Each time the Sparrow Hawk struck there was only one bird in the net.

I attempted to capture the hawk with the aid of a bal chatri trap baited with a freshly caught Junco and placed beside the mist net, but

even though the hawk would perch over the net area, it would not strike the trap, so after one hour I released the Junco.

The female Sparrow Hawk was at no time known to attack a bird in my area. Even though I saw the two hawks for two days after the male killed the three birds in my nets, I did not see either attack birds, or for that matter anything else.

I have seen a number of Sparrow Hawks in the area around my banding site in the past two years, but at no time previously or since have I ever had them or any other hawk attack any of the birds with which I was working. ROBERT C. PAULSON, JR., 2504 College St., Cedar Falls.

**One Day Bald Eagle Count, February 13 or 14, 1965**—Areas covered were mostly the Mississippi River from the source to below St. Louis and most rivers and places where eagles winter in Illinois. Also covered were portions of Kentucky and Nebraska. All locks and dams were well covered as was most open water in the river that could be reached. There is no Dam #23. Some areas covered by pools and some by Locks and Dams.

| LOCATION   | ADULTS | IMMATURES | NOT AGED | TOTAL |
|--|--------|-----------|----------|-------|
| Pools 4, 5, 5A and 6 .....                             | 15     | 1         | 0        | 16    |
| Pools 7 and 8 .....                                    | 5      | 0         | 7        | 12    |
| Pool 9 .....   | 9      | 0         | 6        | 15    |
| Pool 10 .....  | 20     | 1         | 0        | 21    |
| Pool 11 .....  | 61     | 1         | 0        | 62    |
| Dubuque, Iowa .....                                    | 7      | 1         | 0        | 8     |
| Lock and Dam 12 and<br>Savanna Ordinance Depot         | 90     | 16        | 3        | 109   |
| Palisades State Park .....                             | 1      | 0         | 2        | 3     |
| Spring Lake and Thomson .....                          | 4      | 0         | 0        | 4     |
| Albany, Illinois .....                                 | 1      | 0         | 0        | 1     |
| Lock and Dam 13 .....                                  | 2      | 1         | 0        | 3     |
| Cordova, Illinois .....                                | 27     | 0         | 1        | 28    |
| Tri-Cities, Locks 14 15 and<br>Credit Island .....     | 2      | 2         | 1        | 5     |
| Andalusia, Illinois .....                              | 1      | 0         | 0        | 1     |
| Loud Thunder Preserve,<br>Rock Island County, Ill .... | 4      | 2         | 0        | 6     |
| Lock and Dam 16 .....                                  | 3      | 1         | 0        | 4     |
| Below Muscatine, Iowa .....                            | 18     | 1         | 0        | 19    |
| Lock and Dam 17 .....                                  | 21     | 2         | 0        | 23    |
| New Boston, Illinois .....                             | 28     | 1         | 0        | 29    |
| Keitsburg, Illinois .....                              | 24     | 0         | 0        | 24    |
| Delabar Park, Illinois .....                           | 3      | 0         | 0        | 3     |
| Oquawka, Illinois .....                                | 6      | 3         | 0        | 9     |
| Lock and Dam 18 .....                                  | 4      | 0         | 0        | 4     |
| Burlington, Iowa, bridge .....                         | 3      | 0         | 0        | 3     |
| Lomax, Illinois .....                                  | 1      | 0         | 0        | 1     |
| Hamilton, Illinois .....                               | 1      | 2         | 0        | 3     |
| Lock and Dam 19 .....                                  | 10     | 4         | 0        | 14    |
| Warsaw, Illinois .....                                 | 15     | 9         | 0        | 24    |
| Lock and Dam 20 .....                                  | 5      | 0         | 0        | 5     |
| Lock and Dam 21 .....                                  | 21     | 11        | 0        | 32    |
| Lock and Dam 22 .....                                  | 14     | 1         | 0        | 15    |
| Lock and Dam 24 .....                                  | 4      | 14        | 1        | 19    |
| Lock and Dam 25 .....                                  | 2      | 2         | 0        | 4     |
| Annado, Mo. ....                                       | 2      | 2         | 4        | 8     |
| Pool 26 and St. Louis area,                            |        |           |          |       |



|                               |      |      |    |     |
|-------------------------------|------|------|----|-----|
| Pere Marquette Park,          |      |      |    |     |
| Elsah and Swan Lake etc. ..   | 43   | 58   | 32 | 133 |
| Illinois River .....          | 44   | 15   | 1  | 60  |
| Crab Orchard Refuge .....     | 2    | 1    | 0  | 3   |
| Union County Refuge .....     | 7    | 11   | 0  | 18  |
| Kentucky .....                | 13   | 18   | 3  | 34  |
| Nebraska .....                | 37   | 10   | 36 | 83  |
|                               | —    | —    | —  | —   |
| Totals .....                  | 580  | 191  | 97 | 868 |
| Percentage Illinois and above | .766 | .234 |    |     |
| Percentage all counts .....   | .754 | .246 |    |     |

Counts made by foot, boat, car and by air. Comparison between air and car made from Lock 12 to below Burlington. ELTON FAWKS, 2309 Fifth Ave., Moline, Ill.

**Bank Swallow Colony at Hamburg**—In fighting the vicious extensive flood of 1952 of the Missouri River the U. S. Engineers came into Hamburg, cutting into the bluffs for dirt to throw up a dam in the futile effort to save part of the city. Later more of the bluff was cut away to build a road for the new homes that were being erected in that particular addition.

In 1960 I noted a few Bank Swallows near our home, which is on a bluff, flying around one cut bank and then another, trying to decide where to excavate their long hollows which serve as nests. They eventually chose one raw cut with a south exposure about sixty feet high and one hundred thirty feet long. The following year those few pairs of swallows increased to about two hundred birds.

On April 14, 1962, a half a dozen Rough-winged Swallows looked the nest site over, then left. A few days thereafter the Bank Swallows came, more than I had ever seen before at one time. Hole after hole was made, honeycombing the bank. By the end of June I was able to count about fifteen hundred birds. One could believe it as they darkened the sky toward evening, hawking back and forth. Our game warden, Jim Shipley, told me this was the only place in Fremont County with a swallow nesting area. It did draw people, some from long distances away. They spent hours watching the swallows flying and darting, never missing a hole when they brought insects to the nestlings. Then about the middle of July my husband and I were awakened by gun blasts some time after midnight. Five high school boys from a neighboring town were shooting into the holes. When the game warden questioned them some time afterwards, they insisted that they were shooting at bottles. However, I never found a broken bottle around. A few blacksnakes and bullsnakes raided the nests, further discouraging the birds. One of our local young men took to shooting these snakes. He cut one open and found innumerable eggs and around ten nestlings. No longer were there fifteen hundred; it would have been hard to count two hundred. Often disturbed birds will not go back to their breeding grounds.

I did not expect many to return in 1963. However, I was very happy to count around three hundred of them nesting that summer. Around the Fourth of July of the same year, a couple of youngsters stuffed firecrackers into some of the holes and set them off. They had no idea they were harming the birds! And again the bird population was reduced.

Last year we had fewer birds returning to nest. This year the land directly south of this breeding area has been bought and a house will be erected some time this year according to present plans. I feel this will be the last of our swallows as they do not care to nest close to human habitation. MRS. EDWIN GETSCHER, 4 Skyline Drive, Hamburg.

**Distribution of Ruffed Grouse in Northern Dubuque County**—An attempt to determine the distribution of Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus*, in northern Dubuque County was made in the winter and spring of 1965. Two methods were used: tracking of grouse in the snow and spring drumming counts.

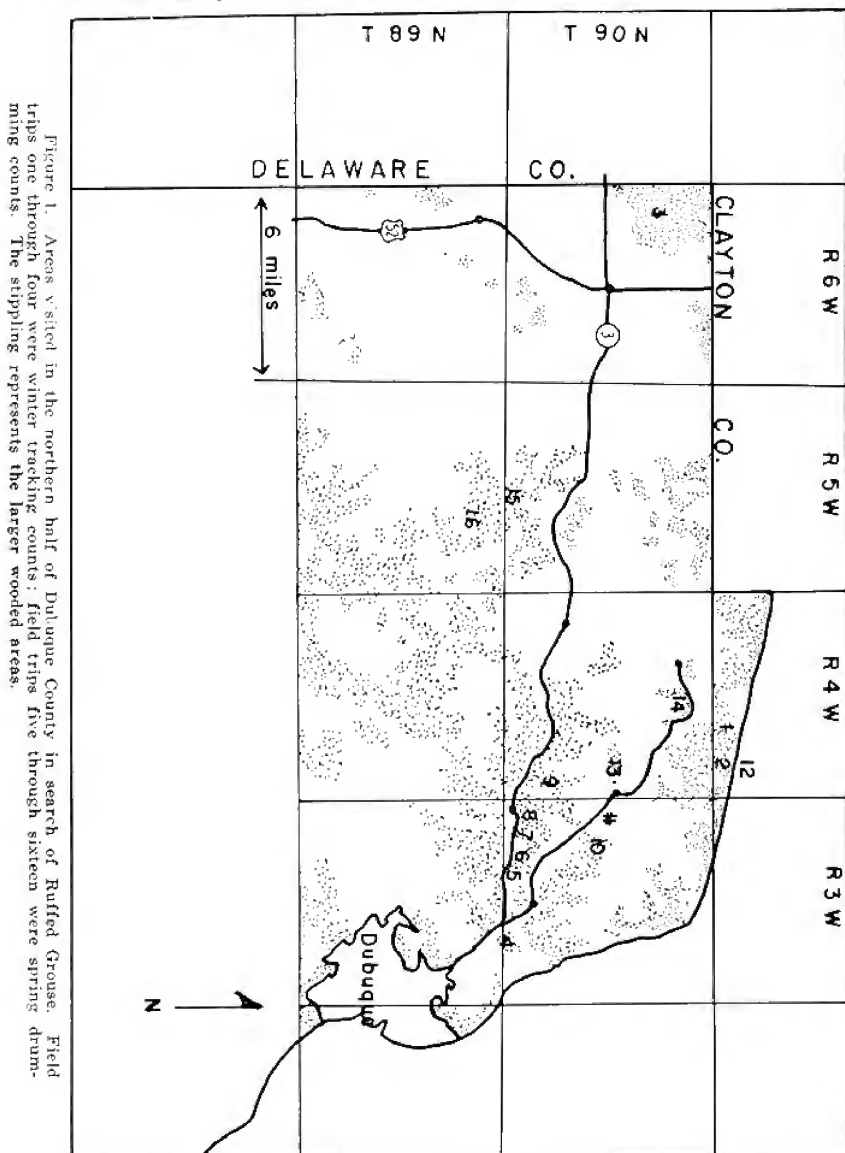


Figure 1. Areas visited in the northern half of Dubuque County in search of Ruffed Grouse. Field trips one through four were winter tracking counts; field trips five through sixteen were spring drumming counts. The stippling represents the larger wooded areas.

The areas chosen for their possible grouse populations were areas similar to ones in Clayton County which contain grouse. There the grouse are typically found in oak-hickory woods with good underbrush growth and a small stand of cedars.

The first four field trips consisted of tracking grouse in the snow. See Figure 1. They were held on January 10 and 18, and February 14 and

26, respectively. Grouse tracks were found on a ridge east of Basswood Creek (trip no. 2) and also west of White Pine Hollow (trip no. 3). Several grouse were flushed on the ridge near Basswood Creek. Many tracks and a predation of a grouse were found in the brushy area west of White Pine Hollow. White Pine Hollow itself was thoroughly traversed with the help of two students, Denny Kopp and Lindy Beecher; however, no tracks were found in the preserve. Probably the heavy forest canopy did not allow sufficient growth of underbrush for wintering of grouse.

The next three field trips consisted of 12 seven-minute stops listening for grouse drumming. They were held one-half hour before to one-half hour after sunrise on April 25 (trip nos. 5-9), April 29 (trip nos. 10-12), and May 10 (trip nos. 13-16). Grouse were only heard drumming on the ridge east of Basswood Creek. Two grouse were heard; they drummed about once every 5 minutes over a period of twenty minutes.

Basswood Creek and White Pine Hollow are probably not the only areas which contain grouse in Dubuque County, since reliable reports indicate otherwise. However, the heavy grazing of many wooded areas undoubtedly does limit the numbers of grouse and isolates the flocks in Dubuque County. Thus the main technique, *i.e.* drumming counts, probably did not work very well due to reduced drumming in areas of low populations. The tracking method, although much more time consuming, seems to be much more reliable and will be primarily used in further investigations. GERALD KAUFMAN, Biology Department, Loras College, Dubuque.

**Eyes Among the Boulders** — This is a sequel to my article in the June, 1962, issue of *Iowa Bird Life* entitled "Something Lost behind the Ranges."

It was the month of July, 1962. My husband was spending his two weeks' vacation with us in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. Even though it was late in the afternoon, the sun was still shining. The trail beckoned us to come and find what was lost behind the ranges.

This was the trail where I had found the nest of a Townsend Solitaire on the ground in a crevice under a large boulder. I had taken many visitors to the park on this trail so they could add the solitaire to their life list. One could be sure to find the male perching on a dead branch of a pine tree. When thus seen from a distance, a solitaire appears as a large dark bird about the size of a Pine Grosbeak with a long hanging tail and a surprisingly short bill. The white eye ring was the most noticeable feature of the female as she sat under the boulder incubating the eggs and later brooding the young.

While the song of the thrushes often heard in this same place suggests the soft solemn music of dim cathedral aisles that of the Townsend Solitaire suggests the loud ringing notes of a rapt cornetist of the peaks. Each note is as clear and pure and full of life and vigor as the mountain air itself.

I suggested to my husband that we climb to the top of the moraine to hear the Rock Wren sing and to see where the solitaires had built their nest. Little did I know that adventure lay in wait for me when Wallace decided to follow a deer and her fawn, and I went in the opposite direction to see if the wren was still singing. Climbing up the talus slope, I came to the top of the moraine where I could see far down below to the Bear Lake Road.

As the wren was not singing, I decided to join Wallace in pursuit of the deer. Picking my way among the many boulders, I came around one very large boulder, but stopped quickly, for just thirty feet ahead of me I saw sticking up above a boulder, a face that resembled a cat.

Oh, no, it couldn't be! Quickly whipping out my binoculars from my case, I focused them on the object and what I saw made by hands shake. Yes, it was a Mountain Lion! — yellow eyes, whiskers and all!

I looked at my feet. No mountain boots on today. I looked at the

distance below to the Bear Lake Road. Too far to run. I glanced up at the tree by my side. Should I climb the boulder that I was leaning against? No! Lions could do all these, too. What should I do? Did he see me? He was not moving. The wind was blowing in the wrong direction for him to get my scent. Where was Wallace? Should I call for him? If I did get back alive, no one would believe. I recalled the slides my son had shown in a recent lecture one evening at the camp grounds — how he had said Mountain Lions were too scarce in the park — how they needed more of them to keep the deer in check — how many rangers, even he himself, had never seen one.

Should I go back down the slope and try to run for home? No, that would be foolish. He could see me if I did. I whipped out my binoculars again to make sure I was not mistaken. He hadn't moved an inch. The binoculars brought him up too close for comfort. Why did this have to happen to me? The lion began to move. Now, I could see his long body and tail as he emerged from behind that boulder and currant bush by his side. It was time that I moved, too. Perhaps he was coming to get me from the rear.

I yelled, "Wallace, where are you?" No answer. "Wallace, do you see that Mountain Lion?" Only silence among the boulders. Perhaps Wallace was trying to find me and would meet the lion coming down the talus slope. I picked my way carefully among the boulders and looking in all directions, I descended. When I came to the open meadow, I ran all the way to my cabin.

A ranger drove up in his car, and out of breath I gasped, "Will a Mountain Lion attack a human being? Wallace is back there!" This ranger was the one in charge of the wild life of the park. Neighbors sitting on their back porch heard my story and grabbed their cameras and followed the ranger back on the trail to see what was lost behind the ranges.

Here came Wallace down the trail swinging a stick, oblivious of all the adventure that lay behind him. Later when I showed him the exact spot where the lion lay crouched behind the boulder he said, "I was on the other side, a stone's throw from him sitting on a boulder watching the deer graze on the meadow."

The ranger assured me that lions do not attack human beings. He said, "That Mountain Lion was more afraid of you than you were of him." Now, that was hard for me to believe!

The next day two Hungarian artists went back to see if they could find trace of him. They brought back the pelvic bone of a fawn. The lion had been lying in wait for his prey. We had just momentarily delayed him. — MRS. W. C. DeLONG, Box 398, Shenandoah.

## HERON SIGHTINGS REQUEST

In connection with a research project concerned with the summer and year round distribution of the Black-crowned Night Heron and the Green Heron, I would like to solicit the help of persons in reporting sightings of specially mark birds. The birds under study will be marked in one or more of the following ways: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service numbered leg band, colored leg band, and in some cases a "back saddle" and/or leg streamers. Please observe carefully all birds of these species seen, and report the marked birds in the following manner:

1. exact location of sighting: from nearest town so that I can find the precise spot myself, or give range — township — section etc.
2. habitat: land (woods, field, etc.), water (lake, creek, etc.)
3. behavior: flying, feeding, sleeping, etc.
4. exact time of observation: i.e., 11:00 A.M., or 2:47 thru 3:34 P.M., etc.

5. number of bands on legs, and colors of bands (if any), and if at all possible the number showing on the colorband (only if number was **positively** identified by use of binoculars).
6. unusual coloring visible on body: colors and patterns used, and parts of body colored.
7. age of bird if known: immature or adult.
8. if bird is not alone, how many other herons (marked or unmarked) is it with?
9. species of bird: Black-crowned Night Heron or Green Heron.
10. observer's name and address.

Pictures of these species are found in most all bird books. Observers must be able to distinguish between these two species for best results. However, report all sightings even if species identification is questionable, but put "species unknown".

I am also interested in learning of the locations of all known Blk.-cr. Night Heron rookeries (nesting areas), their size, associated species, and age. Send all information to:

Robert C. Paulson, Jr., Graduate Student,  
2504 College St., Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Bird Watcher's America**—edited by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.—illustrated by John H. Dick—441p.—McGraw Hill Co., New York—1965—\$7.50.

A group of short accounts of some of the best habitat areas for bird watching in America. Forty-four naturalists contributed the text material. Included in this group are three who were born and raised in Iowa, Dr. Alfred Bailey, Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge, and Ira Gabrielson, as well as a man who spent most of his life in Iowa, Dr. Paul Errington. Other very well known contributors are Allan Cruickshank, Roger Peterson and George Sutton.

The only area in Iowa is Goose Lake, east of Jewell, where Dr. Errington describes this typical Iowa marsh and follows it through its seasonal as well as wet and dry cycle. Some other nearby areas of special interest to Iowans are "In Colorado—Land of the Long Spring" by Dr. Bailey; "The Black Hills of South Dakota" by Herbert Krause; "A Virgin Prairie in Minnesota," by Ann Gammell; "The Nebraska Pine Ridge" by Doris Gates; "Geese Along the Missouri" by Herbert Krause, and "Hawks above Duluth" by Dr. Pershing Hofslund.

Naturally the writing style varies among the authors. This adds to the variety within the book and makes it more readable. Two areas which could have been included from the standpoint of this reviewer are the bottomland forest area along the Mississippi, such as an area like Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee, and the islands of the Great Lakes with their nesting herons and gulls. One should not expect this book to tell just what species to find in which areas as did Dr. Pettingill's earlier books, but to whet one's appetite for habitat areas which can be found in many specific areas. The chapters should be read before one goes to an area on a trip and also make general, interesting reading. It is especially recommended for public libraries, ed.

**Introductory Ornithology** — George E. Grube — Wm. C. Brown and Company, Dubuque—294p. many line drawings, some by Wm. Dilger and photographs—1964—cloth \$4.75.

A well written text-manual for students of elementary ornithology. The author's approach is reminiscent of Pettengill's **Manual**, but the size is more convenient and the exercises are fewer in number. With access to a few key reference books one could use this book to teach oneself.

The author divides his material into the following chapters: external features, internal anatomy, origin and history, taxonomy, distribution, birds and their environment, migration, life history, song, economic value, history of American ornithology and bird art, methods in ornithology and attracting birds. Appended sections outline suggested problems for detailed study and provide a key to orders and families of North American birds north of Mexico. As would be expected from the title an extensive background is not assumed. Terms peculiar to ornithology are defined when first used and no glossary is included.

Little fault can be found with the author's approach or presentation, unless it would be the somewhat overused approach. No errors were noted, but the incident of Columbus and the observation of migrant birds was mentioned twice in some detail, thereby filling space which could perhaps have been better filled with additional material. In the chapter on distribution the author draws all his examples of discontinuous distribution from mammals where it occurs more commonly, but never mentions a case involving birds. These shortcomings are minor and do not detract from the value and usefulness of the book. It provides a good text for those interested in broadening their knowledge of the science of ornithology. ed.

**THE RING**, quarterly international banding journal — \$1.50 per year. Bird banding as a scientific method of ornithological investigation requires more than other methods an international co-ordination and co-operation. The banding centers and organizations as well as individual banders want information on the methods applied elsewhere and on results achieved by others. For these and other reasons an international publication dealing with all the aspects of bird banding throughout the world should be welcomed by all interested in bird migration and its study.

I am taking the liberty of recommending to you the Ornithological Bulletin **THE RING** which since 1954 is published quarterly. It is devoted entirely to bird banding, its aims, tasks, results and methods. It is intended as a link between the banders of the world, as a platform for discussions on various banding problems, and above all as a source of information. It is obvious that the exchange of ideas, experiences and suggestions, an important factor in every scientific investigation is of great value also in bird banding work. **THE RING** is a proper publication for this. It is circulated in almost all the countries of the world where banding is being carried on and its contributors send their articles and notes from very many parts of the world.

Nevertheless it is the Editor's ambition to contact more banding organizations and banders everywhere and to secure their co-operation with **THE RING**. Bird banding practice has proved that the theoretical and practical problems are of great importance for everyone, and the ingenious devices applied in one part of the world would prove applicable in another, provided that they could be properly transmitted. You are cordially invited to this international co-operation — do not hesitate to share your ideas, inventions, improvements or troubles with others. Maybe your success would prove a welcome assistance for your banding fellow far away, and your trouble could be solved by advice from other parts of the world. The most important thing is that banders, wherever they reside should be willing to co-operate — if this were achieved much would be gained.

The problem of information is similar. **THE RING** is intended as a source of information on all banding events, achievements, etc., occurring or achieved everywhere. The Editor would be only too glad to publish any note or article of general interest.

**THE RING** brings in each issue a comprehensible bibliographical section of recent publications referring to every aspect of bird banding. It is in

the common interest that THE RING's bibliography should be as complete as possible. The Editor himself examines all the principal ornithological magazines, but some studies or notes published in local or non-ornithological periodicals may easily escape his attention. You are warmly requested to bear this in mind and to inform THE RING on any publication referring to bird banding which has appeared anywhere.

THE RING is a private publication. It is not supported or sponsored by any institution or organization and thus is absolutely independent. This feature is of great importance giving the Editor and his contributors a free hand in expressing their opinions. On the other hand as a self-supporting publication THE RING covers its expenses from the subscription fees only. When the first issue of THE RING appeared in October 1954 it was doubtful whether a publication like it should exist based on its own income only. Now, however, it can be stated that THE RING is fully self-supporting. This is the best proof that the publication has proved useful and necessary. It does not mean of course, that new subscribers are not wanted. On the contrary they are urgently wanted. Every new subscriber makes the financial basis of THE RING firmer and — and this is still more important — every new subscriber is expected to become a contributor. The Editor believes that you will not regret it if you subscribe to THE RING. Try first for one year only, you will surely become a steady friend of THE RING like many others before you. — DR. W. RYDZEWSKI, Editor, Wroclaw, Poland. Send subscriptions to European Publishers Representatives, Inc., 132 W. 43rd Ave., New York 36, New York.

---

## NOTES AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Wilson Ornithological Society held its forty-sixth convention at Sylvan Lake, South Dakota, in mid-June. It was a fine meeting and attracted several Iowans. In addition to your editor, Myra Willis and Mrs. Petranek of Cedar Rapids, Dean Roosa of Goldfield, Helen and Mildred Stewart of Grinnell, Lee Eberly of Iowa City and a couple from Sioux City were present. Also T. James Lewis, originally of Davenport, now in the armed service in Utah attended. The area around Sylvan Lake contained many typical Black Hill's breeding birds. Especially numerous were White-winged Juncos, a specie endemic to the hills. Many of their nests were located.

The convention sessions were very enlightening with the stress on research done in the field. I.O.U. members who do not belong to this society would find joining a most rewarding experience. Next year's meeting will be at Pennsylvania State University in late April-early May. In 1967 the long range plans call for New Hampshire in mid June — a great tie-in with a vacation.

The American Ornithologists Union meeting will be held at Columbus, Ohio, August 23-27. While these sessions are on a more advanced level often based primarily on laboratory work they are still of interest. Robert Paulson, Jr., of Cedar Falls plans to attend with your editor.

Also up-coming is the Inland Bird Banding convention to be held at Marshalltown, Nov. 13-14, 1965. Homer Rinehart is in charge of local arrangements and Charles Ayres is in charge of the program. **ALL** Iowa banders should make it a point to attend. Non banders would find this meeting of interest to learn what banders accomplish, the methods used, and to learn about birds and how to identify them from the programs. Many traps and other equipment will be on display. ed.

## CONTENTS

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| ANNUAL CONVENTION .....         | 34-44 |
| J. HAROLD ENNIS .....           | 45-48 |
| FIELD REPORTS .....             | 49-52 |
| GENERAL NOTES .....             | 53-61 |
| BOOK REVIEWS .....              | 61-63 |
| NOTES AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS ..... | 63    |

---

### OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

President—Dr. Robert Vane, 600 Dows Bldg., Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
 Vice-President—Mrs. Darrell Hanna, 1026 S. Alice, Sioux City, Iowa  
 Sec'y.-Treas.—Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Route 2, Waterloo, Iowa  
 Editor—Peter C. Petersen Jr., 2736 E. High Street, Davenport, Iowa

#### Executive Council:

Fred W. Kent, Iowa City, Iowa  
 Robert L. Nickolson, Sioux City, Iowa  
 Charles Ayres, Ottumwa, Iowa  
 Dean Roosa, Lehigh, Iowa

---

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; "The Bulletin," 1929-1930; "Iowa Bird Life," beginning 1931.

---

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE:** \$3.00 a year. Single copies 75¢ each except where supply is limited to five or fewer copies, \$1.00. Subscriptions to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are four classes, as follows: Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$5.00 a year; Regular Member, \$3.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$1.00 a year.

---

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE  
 2736 E. HIGH STREET  
 DAVENPORT, IOWA